

Wednesday 12 March 2025

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Today's Business

### Meeting of the Parliament

**2:00 pm** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**2:00 pm** Portfolio Questions  
Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands  
Health and Social Care

**followed by** Scottish Conservative and  
Unionist Party Debate: Protecting Single-sex  
Spaces in the Public Sector

**followed by** Urgent Question: Joe  
FitzPatrick: To ask the Scottish Government  
whether it will provide an update on what  
engagement it has had with the University of  
Dundee regarding its financial recovery plan  
and proposed reduction in staffing.

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**followed by** Approval of SSIs (if required)

**5:20 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business — S6M-  
16573 Audrey Nicoll: International Women's  
Day 2025

### Committee Meetings

**9:00am** Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

**9:30am** Criminal Justice Committee

**9:30am** Education, Children and Young  
People Committee

**9:30am** Public Audit Committee

## Meeting of the Parliament

### 2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

### 2:00 pm Portfolio Questions

#### Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

- 1. Jeremy Balfour:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to propose scheduling time for a parliamentary debate on the fishing industry. ([S6O-04410](#))
- 2. Emma Harper:** To ask the Scottish Government how the new deal for agriculture and its agricultural support schemes will aim to support the dairy sector. ([S6O-04411](#))
- 3. Douglas Ross:** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether seagulls should continue to be protected in law. ([S6O-04412](#))
- 4. Pam Gosal:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what assessment it has made of the potential impact on agriculture in Scotland, including in the West Scotland region, of the UK Government decision to change the inheritance tax system for family farms. ([S6O-04413](#))
- 5. Clare Haughey:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to protect the value of provenance in the Scottish food and drinks industry. ([S6O-04414](#))
- 6. Maggie Chapman:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the rural affairs secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding what support can be provided to migrant workers in the agricultural sector in Scotland. ([S6O-04415](#))
- 7. Liz Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what action it is taking to reduce the level of wildlife crime. ([S6O-04416](#))
- 8. Ben Macpherson:** [Not Lodged] ([S6O-04417](#))

#### Health and Social Care

- 1. Douglas Lumsden:** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of referrals to audiology services at NHS Grampian are seen within the 18-week target. ([S6O-04418](#))
- 2. Alexander Burnett:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will outline its funding strategy for health and social care partnerships in the North East Scotland region. ([S6O-04419](#))
- 3. Stuart McMillan:** To ask the Scottish Government what dialogue it has had with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde regarding a replacement for Port Glasgow Health Centre. ([S6O-04420](#))
- 4. Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what additional focus areas it has identified, following the publication of the *Women's Health Plan 2021 to 2024: Final Report*. ([S6O-04421](#))
- 5. Jackie Baillie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on NHS pay negotiations for 2025-26. ([S6O-04422](#))
- 6. Christine Grahame:** [Not Lodged] ([S6O-04423](#))
- 7. Clare Adamson:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is supporting people to access gynaecological health services. ([S6O-04424](#))
- 8. Karen Adam:** To ask the Scottish Government what immediate steps it can take to ensure that vulnerable individuals are not harmed as a result of the reported planned withdrawal of some health and social care services in Aberdeenshire. ([S6O-04425](#))

## followed by **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector**

**[S6M-16755](#) Russell Findlay: Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector**—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government has failed to give sufficient clarity to the public sector about ensuring the availability of single-sex spaces for women and girls, such as toilets and changing rooms; acknowledges that this failure has resulted in workers in the public sector and school pupils having to share single-sex spaces with individuals of the opposite sex, jeopardising their safety, dignity and privacy, and subjecting some to horrific incidents of sexual abuse and harassment, and calls on the Scottish Government to urgently issue a directive to all public sector organisations requiring that adequate single-sex spaces for biological women and girls are provided on their premises in line with legal obligations.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**[S6M-16755.3](#) Shirley-Anne Somerville: Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector**—As an amendment to motion S6M-16755 in the name of Russell Findlay (Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "notes that the Scottish Government fully upholds the Equality Act 2010, and requires all public bodies to comply with the law, and welcomes the role of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in providing codes of practice and guidance."

**[S6M-16755.1](#) Jackie Baillie: Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector**—As an amendment to motion S6M-16755 in the name of Russell Findlay (Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector), leave out from ", such as toilets" to end and insert "; acknowledges concerns about dignity and privacy; notes recent research on safety in hospitals relating to rape and sexual assault; calls for more accurate recording and reporting in the NHS, including to the police, leading to better protections; further calls for an end to mixed sex wards; supports ensuring that schools are designed as accessible and welcoming environments for all, including accessible and single-sex toilets, and calls for the Scottish Government to outline how single-sex provision will be delivered in public buildings, such as schools and hospitals, and in line with legal obligations."

**[S6M-16755.2](#) Maggie Chapman: Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector**—As an amendment to motion S6M-16755 in the name of Russell Findlay (Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector), leave out from first "the Scottish Government" to end and insert "all women deserve protection from misogyny, including transmisogyny; condemns the rise in transphobic rhetoric and policy; believes that transgender and nonbinary people contribute immensely to the wellbeing of Scotland's communities; reiterates its commitment to human rights for all, including freedom from discrimination and upholding the Equality Act 2010; requires all public bodies to comply with the law, and welcomes the role of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in providing codes of practice and guidance."

followed by **Urgent Question: Joe FitzPatrick: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what engagement it has had with the University of Dundee regarding its financial recovery plan and proposed reduction in staffing.**

## followed by **Business Motions**

**[S6M-16768](#) Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Programme**—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 18 March 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Protecting and Growing Scotland's Iconic Food and Drink Sector

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 19 March 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

*followed by* Scottish Labour Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 20 March 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

*followed by* Rural Affairs and Islands Committee Debate: Salmon Farming in Scotland

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 25 March 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 26 March 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 27 March 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 17 March 2025, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**[S6M-16769](#) Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/41) be approved.**

**[S6M-16770](#) Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Tied Pubs (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.**

**followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)**

**5:20 pm Decision Time**

**followed by Members' Business  
Debate on the subject of—**

**[S6M-16573](#) Audrey Nicoll: International Women's Day 2025—That the Parliament notes that International Women's Day 2025 takes place on 8 March; notes that the theme for 2025, Accelerating Action, is in recognition of calls for increased momentum and urgency to address the barriers that women face, and notes those standing together in solidarity to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in the Aberdeen South and North Kincardine constituency, across Scotland and around the world.**

## Committee Meetings

All meetings take place in the Scottish Parliament, unless otherwise specified.

### Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 9th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **A climate transition for Scottish agriculture:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Jonnie Hall, Deputy CEO and Director of Policy, National Farmers Union Scotland;  
Pete Ritchie, Director, Nourish Scotland;  
Kate Rowell, Chair, Quality Meat Scotland;  
Jim Walker, Chair, Suckler Beef Climate Group Programme Board;  
Neil Wilson, Executive Director, Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland.
3. **A climate transition for Scottish agriculture:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
4. **Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

### Criminal Justice Committee 9th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 1).

### Education, Children and Young People Committee 9th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—  
[Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980 \(Modification\) Regulations 2025](#)
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Treatment of Qualifications Scotland as Specified Authority) Order 2025 [draft] from—  
Jenny Gilruth, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, and Clare Hicks, Director, Education Reform, Scottish Government;  
Nico McKenzie-Juetten, Lawyer, and Andrew Rea, Legal Trainee, Scottish Government Legal Directorate.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** Jenny Gilruth Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to move—S6M-16297—That the Education, Children and Young People Committee recommends that the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Treatment of Qualifications Scotland as Specified Authority) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.
4. **Scottish Attainment Challenge Inquiry: Post-Legislative Scrutiny:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Jenny Gilruth, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Government;  
David Gregory, Strategic Director - Scottish Attainment Challenge, Education Scotland;

David Leng, Head of Scottish Attainment Challenge, and Alison Taylor, Deputy Director for Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing, Scottish Government.

5. **Evidence Session (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 4.

### **Public Audit Committee 9th Meeting, 2025**

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

1. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

Web site: <https://www.parliament.scot>

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Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau)	5187
Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

Committee web sites at:

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees>

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